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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE Kung-shang Jih-pao.CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HONG KONG AIRFIELD PROTESTED

The proposed new airfield near Deep Bay, Hong Kong New Territories, is arousing considerable opposition among the local inhabitants. A meeting was held recently at the village of Hsin-ch'ing, consisting of delegates from that and two other villages most directly affected. The British commissioner for that area explained that 3½ years previously a site near P'ing-shan had been chosen, but after several months' work it was rejected on the opinion of aviation experts that the site was unsuitable. Since Hong Kong is an important center, with increasing demands for commercial aviation, and the Kai Tak Airfield is inadequate, the need for a new airport could not be denied.

The government, after thorough search, decided upon the vicinity of Deep Bay as the location of the new field and has asked the three villagers to move elsewhere. The villagers would be free to choose a new locality, and the government would build new homes for them. The government would compensate for requisitioned land at a rate fixed by an impartial committee and not below the present market price. It was suggested that each village form a committee to handle necessary details and the government would do all it could for ample and prompt re-settlement.

The villagers presented a protest, deploring the loss of their ancestral lands and graves and noting that any help from the government would be temporary, while the removal would affect their descendants for generations to come. This paper was handed to the commissioner for transmission to the Governor of Hong Kong.

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